

April 12, 1972

**MINE INSPECTION REPORT
JACKPILE-PAGUATE OPEN-PIT MINES
UNITED PUEBLO AGENCY
LAGUNA PUEBLO RESERVATION
VALENCIA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

**LAGUNA PUEBLO
TRIBAL LEASES
Nos. 1,4,5,6,7**

**BY
Philip B. Mudgett
Mining Engineer**

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BRANCH OF MINING OPERATIONS
CONSERVATION DIVISION**

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SC

Date: 6/20/13

The Anaconda Company's Jackpile-Paguate open-pit mines were inspected on March 30, 1972, in the company of Ernest A. Lucero, General Mine Superintendent for these operations. The mines comprise two adjacent open-pit excavations on the Laguna Indian Reservation located about 8.5 miles north of the Laguna Pueblo. They were last inspected by an engineer from the Carlsbad office on November 18, 1971.

The mines were being operated two 8-hour production shifts and one 8-hour maintenance shift per day, 6 days a week with a total of 330 employees.

Both the day shift with 200 employees and the swing shift with 116 employees produce from 3,500 to 5,000 tons of ore and remove 30,000 tons of waste rock per shift. This results in the production of from 7,000 to 10,000 tons of ore and the removal of 60,000 tons of overburden per day. Only 14 men are employed on the maintenance shift. The ore is blended at the mine to provide for a current mill feed of 2,200 tons of ore per day averaging about .34 percent of U_3O_8 . Most of the ore is presently being produced from the Paguate pit with small quantities coming from the western extension of the Jackpile pit and the underground workings on the small lense-like deposits near the primary crusher.



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The company's plans for beginning underground development and extraction of the small ore bodies south of the Paguate pit on Tract #4 in January 1972, were postponed indefinitely last December. However, the commencement of ore production in paying quantities from the tract is now expected to be accomplished in April 1973, well before the expiration date of July 31, 1973, for the primary term of the lease, by open-pit mining an isolated ore body near the common boundary of Tract Nos. 1 and 4. Stripping of the overburden is under way and the haulage ramp being excavated for this purpose will also be connected to the southern extension of the Paguate pit on Tract #4 before anticipated ore production commences there in December 1973.

Extraction of the small lense of mineralized sandstone near the crusher with the "Alpine Miner" has been completed with the recovery of nearly 13,000 tons of ore containing about 0.54 percent of U_3O_8 . Drifting with the "Miner" has been started on another lense outcropping at the same elevation about 300 feet to the west. This ore body is wider than the latter and is estimated to contain about 55,000 tons of ore of similar grade.

Health and safety conditions at the mines were last reported by the U. S. Bureau of Mines on June 17, 1971, to be generally satisfactory.

No violations of the lease terms were observed.

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Orig. to: Supt., United Pueblos, Albuquerque
: Comm., Office of Indian Affairs
: Chief, Branch of Mining Operations
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